

For Immediate Release

Contact: (Your name and phone number)

What to Do When the Power Is Off

“Everyone experiences power interruptions from time to time. Unfortunately, many of these outages come at times of weather extremes or accompany various disasters. When the power is out we lose our primary source of artificial light and many lose our source of heat and water as well. When the power is out, safety becomes a major concern,” said _____, Emergency Management Director.

The following information will help you when the lights go out.

- **Register life-sustaining equipment** in you home with your utility company -- you can be put on a priority list to establish electricity. Lifesaving equipment might include ventilators, home dialysis machines, neonatal monitors, etc.
- Prepare a power outage kit. For short duration outages, consider having glow light sticks, flashlights, a battery-powered radio, extra batteries and a wind-up clock on hand.
- Have an alternate heat source and fuel supply i.e. kerosene heater or wood for a fireplace.
- Purchase a generator. Follow the manufacturer’s installation instructions very carefully especially when hooking up lifesaving equipment to the generator.
- If your house is the only one without power, check your fuse box or circuit breaker panel. Turn off large appliances before replacing fuses or resetting circuits.
- If power is out in the neighborhood, disconnect all electrical heaters and appliances to reduce the initial demand and protect motors from possible low voltage damage.
- Unplug computers and other voltage sensitive equipment to protect them against possible surges when the power is restored.
- Conserve water, especially if you are on a well.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed. If the door remains closed, a fully loaded freezer can keep foods frozen for two days.
- Never use a charcoal barbecue inside your home. Carbon Monoxide poisoning is a real possibility.
- Use battery-operated flashlights or glow sticks for light instead of candles.
- When using kerosene heaters, gas lanterns or stoves inside the house, maintain ventilation to avoid a build-up of toxic fumes.
- Leave one light switch in the ON position to alert you when the service is restored.
- If you own an electric garage door opener, learn how to open the door without power.
- Have a corded telephone available. Remember that cordless phones do not work when the power is out.